



## Kevin Faulconer: Water restrictions are not solutions

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The city of San Diego had been considering a plan that would have capped water use based on past history. We avoided taking that step, but we were forced to adopt a plan that spells out when and how long people can water their lawns.

Unfortunately, the [new restrictions](#), which took effect June 1, are not the long-term answer to the region's water shortage.

We've just learned about further water reductions from the [Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta](#) that are expected to impact San Diego County homes and businesses.

It is more important than ever to move the region away from its reliance on imported water. To get there, we need to consider self-sustaining options such as desalination and expanding our recycled water system. We also need to increase the number of customers on the recycled water system. Most importantly, we need to change the way we use water.

The San Diego County Water Authority has developed a plan to diversify our water portfolio by 2020. The plan says 30 percent of our water should come from local water sources. I am pleased to see that the water authority is moving forward with the study of a new desalination plant at Camp Pendleton.

I believe the best way to change our water patterns is to implement a market-based solution on conservation efforts. I am pleased that the city water department is currently developing a tiered-rate structure that penalizes wasteful uses of water and rewards efficient uses, and I'm looking forward to reviewing the plan.

It is time we move away from our reliance on our neighbors to the north, and ensure we have secure and reliable sources of water.

*Kevin Faulconer is a San Diego councilmember representing district 2.*

